

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /079 W
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P 041139Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7236
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0721

E.O. 11652:N/A (DECONTROL A Q APRIL 1979)

TAGS: PFOR, CH. MR

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT MAINLAND CHINA

1. MAURITANIAN MINISTRY STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED APRIL 1 THAT PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH WILL BE MAKING OFFICIAL VISIT TO PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. ACCORDING TP MFA PRESS RELEASE, PRESIDENT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, BY THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, AND BY A NUMBER OF GIRM OFFICIALS.
2. ALTHOUGH NEITHER MFA COMMUNIQUE NOR FRONT-PAGE STORY IN CHAAB (GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED DAILY) GAVE AN INDICATION OF TIMING, PRESIDENTIAL PARTY IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE NOUAKCHOTT MIDWEEK (PERHAPS APRIL 6). EXCEPT FOR POSSIBLE FUEL AND REST STOPS, PRESIDENT WILL FLY DIRECTLY TO CHINA. CHINESE AMBASSADOR KANG DEPARTED FOR PEKING MARCH 29.
3. UPCOMING TRIP WILL BE THIRD OFFICIAL VISIT BY MAURITANIAN CHEF OF STATE TO PRC (PREVIOUS VISITS WERE IN 1967 AND 1974). CHINESE-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY CLOSE SINCE MID-60'S AND CHINESE OCCUPY SPECIAL PLACE IN MAURITANIA'S

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HIERARCHY OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS. CHINESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, VARIED AND WARMLY APPRECIATED BY MAN-IN-STREET AS WELL AS BY GOVERNMENT: RURAL MEDICAL TEAMS, LARGE RICE GROWING PROJECT, NOUAKCHOTT MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY--ARE IN OPERATION; DIAGNOSTIC CENTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING INSTITUTE PLUS NOUAKCHOTT ELECTRICAL GENERATING PLANT ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION; ENGINEERING STUDIES FOR (POLITICALLY SENSITIVE)

DEEPWATER PORT AT NOUAKCHOTT HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN COMPLETED. WHILE PROHECTED VISIT IS,IN ALL PROBOBILITY, MAINLY REAFFIRMATION OF CLOSE TIES AND MUTUAL POLITICAL SUPPORT, AND WHILE PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS PROBABLY TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SUCCESSORS OF MAO AND CHOU, MORE JUNIOR AND TECHNICAL MEMBERS OF GIRM DELEGATION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLU RAISE PORT CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER ONGOING AID PROJECTS, AND WILL PROBABLY PRESS HARD FOR FINAL COMMITMENT ON PORT PROJECT (INCLUDING FINANCING) AND FOR SPECIFIC DATE FOR BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION. HANDSIDE

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Message Attributes

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